

LITERARY NOTES.

"Tutti-Frutti," a book of quaint and happy child songs, by Laura Ledyard and W. T. Peters (George W. Harlan), is profusely illustrated by D. Clinton Peters, whose designs are pretty and some of them fanciful.

New editions of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's "Yale Lectures on Preaching" and "Norwood, or Village Life in New-England," and also of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's domestic stories, are ready at Fords, Howard & Hulbert's.

Mr. Barnett Smith is a remarkably enterprising biographer. It is seriously said that Mr. John Bright has given him no materials for the work which he has just published on the career of that statesman. Mr. Smith has found no difficulty in making a bulky volume in spite of the fact that the Quaker politician has contributed nothing and received nothing.

Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, was one of the few students in the Hanoverian line of gross and fat-witted men. He was a person of liberal opinions—so liberal that he condescended to own and attentively read a volume of William Ellery Channing's works—a book which has recently come into the possession of Harvard University. It is interleaved for annotation, and shows a careful and studious fashion of reading.

Mr. William S. Sloan, a member of the class of '82 at Columbia College, has compiled a book of information about that institution, and calls it "The Undergraduate Record" (Gillies Brothers). It contains about 6,000 names and the personal statistics, conveniently arranged, of all the college societies and miscellaneous organizations, annual class and social anniversaries and athletic clubs. It is furnished with a complete index of names.

Miss Blanche Willis Howard's new novel of "Aunt Sarena" has won for itself a success rather unusual in this country, whose proverbs are generally of foreign extraction. Several editions have already been published and sold, and one large bookelling house in New-York has gone so far as to order at one blow 2,000 copies from the publishers. Two young spinster, Miss McLean and Miss Howard, are in the business sense the most successful book-makers of the autumn.

"Compensation, and other Devotional Poems," by Frances Ridley Havergal (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.), in the title of a pretty little volume which includes the popular "Leaflets," known here in English editions, and various other religious pieces. The book will be welcome to a large class of readers; but we wish it did not begin with this hopelessly unmetrical line:

"O the compensating springs! O the balancings of life!"

The bound volumes of "Scribler's Monthly" for the past year (November, 1880, to October, 1881) are noble specimens of what the popular illustrated magazines have come to be in our time. They are drawing to their service a large proportion of the best literary work, and they have opened an entirely new era in the art of wood engraving. In both departments "Scribler's" has achieved a remarkable success, and in both it has made and is still making a steady and rapid progress.

There is to be a new biography of the brilliant and bitter Dean of St. Patrick's, which is expected to fill the void in later biography left by John Forster's unfinished work. The author is Mr. Henry Craik, a Scotchman, who greatly distinguished himself at Oxford, and who has given much study to the life and character of Swift. It seems anomalous that a learned Scot and an authority of the British Pedagogical Department should attempt to put on paper the odd being who was so entirely the Irishman in his eccentric humor and stormy life. Nevertheless, those who have Scott's and Sheridan's lives of the Dean on their shelves will gladly welcome another work which will include the fresh material used by Forster and will tell Swift's story to its end in the gloom of a lonely home and a disordered mind.

A second edition of Thomas Pitt Taswell-Langmead's "English Constitutional History" has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The first edition, intended primarily as a text-book for students at the English universities and Inns of Court, was favorably received by the general reading public as a concise and clear chronological narrative of the governmental forms of the English Nation, and a valuable supplement to other histories which deal mainly with dynasties, wars and striking social phenomena. In the present edition the author has inserted much fresh matter, and he has rewritten several of the chapters of the original work. The book has marginal notes and a copious index.

"Shakespeare for the Young Folks," edited by Professor Robert R. Raymond (Fords, Howard & Hulbert), is intended to facilitate the intelligent study of the dramatist by presenting in an attractive form only so much of the text as the young mind can assimilate; "in other words, it assumes to 'skip' for the child judiciously, bridging the dreary void of omitted passages with a lively representation of the original, in which the language of the author is to be reproduced only so far as is consistent with the interest of the young reader."

Three plays have been subjected to this process of selection, abridgment and synopsis—namely, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "As You Like It," and "Julius Caesar." The book is plentifully supplied with wood-cuts, and is printed in the form of a handsome quarto.

In "The Boy's Mabinogion" (Charles Scribner's Sons) the late Sidney Lanier performed for young readers a valuable service parallel with that which he had previously done them in "The Boy's Froissart" and "The Boy's King Arthur," and the volume has now been published in the same style as its predecessors, with illustrations by Alfred Fredericks. The text used by Mr. Lanier in this reproduction of the ancient Welsh romances is the translation of Lady Charlotte Guest. The tale commands themselves strongly to his fancy not only by their intrinsic interest but by the fact that they all relate in one way or another to the court of King Arthur; and the young folks who have already learned to look upon Mr. Lanier as a friend will be thankful for a book which matches so well the last previous publication of the series.

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